



## **Dog A.I.D. Client and Dog Eligibility**

**Please note – we work with physically Disabled clients and coach them to train their pet dog to carry out tasks that will assist mobility.**

**Dog A.I.D. is unable to accept applications from those whose primary needs are related to:**

- **Visual impairment**
- **Hearing impairment**
- **Emotional support**
- **Mental health**
- **Autism**
- **Medical alerting including alerting to seizures**

## **The Application Process:**

- *Those wishing to be considered for training with their dog must complete the Register an Interest form, found in the 'Become a Client' section of our website.*
- *Once your enquiry has been received it will be reviewed and you will be emailed to acknowledge receipt of your interest.*
- *If we have a trainer available in your area (within 30 minutes' travel time of your location), you will be contacted.*
- *If we have multiple applications for the same location, a trainer will be on a 'first come first served basis'.*

***Please do not contact the office asking for an update on your application; you will be contacted when there is a trainer available.***

**Completing the Initial Enquiry form does not mean that you are a client of Dog A.I.D. You will only become a client when all paperwork and assessments have been completed satisfactorily and you receive confirmation that you have been accepted on to the programme.**



## **Client Eligibility Criteria:**

*The Social Model of Disability recognises that disabled people are people with impairments who are disabled by their environment. For the eligibility criteria, we have used language from the Equality Act 2010 but support the social model approach that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference.*

- The applicant must be an adult (over the age of 18).
- The applicant is physically Disabled, with their disability impacting on their mobility and their ability to carry out day to day tasks
- The applicant must request that their dog is trained to carry out **3 suitable tasks to assist mobility**. These can include, but are not restricted to:
  - Picking up dropped objects.
  - Opening and closing doors.
  - Bringing specific items e.g. medication bag, mobile telephone
  - Putting washing in and removing from the machine.
  - Placing articles where required.
  - Helping with dressing and undressing.

## **We do not train the following tasks:**

- **Guiding tasks**
- **Hearing tasks**
- **Alerting tasks i.e. dog making owner aware of alarms, doorbells, visitors etc.**
- **Medical alerting (this includes alerting to seizures)**
- **Support/balance tasks or anything that would require weight being placed on a dog including pulling/pushing a wheelchair**

**Any applications requesting the above tasks, or any other unsuitable tasks, will be rejected.**



## **Dog Eligibility Criteria:**

- Your dog must be less than 5 years of age when entering the programme and a minimum of 12 months old before training can start
- You can make your application to the programme when your dog reaches 9 months old
- Your dog **MUST** be neutered prior to the final assessment.

Please think about the areas below before applying to the Dog A.I.D programme:

### **Your dog's health:**

- Physically fit; a good weight, have good muscle tone
- Good teeth condition
- Clean and healthy skin and coat
- You are required to have yearly vet checks with your local surgery to check your dog's health carried out at your own expense
- They should have no conditions that will affect their ability to work and carry out taskwork

### **Socialisation and Habituation:**

- Your dog should be happy, confident and act appropriately around people, animals, unusual objects and in different environments.
- Ask the office for our socialisation and habituation checklists for guidance on what to cover. [Follow this link to send an email](#)
- It is important that your dog is also used to focusing on you around people and other dogs (this is something you will work and build on during your Assistance Dog training)



## **Basic Obedience**

Your dog should have a basic level of obedience. If your application moves forward, you will need to have an Eligibility Assessment which will assess your dog's temperament and behaviour.

Some of the areas that the trainer will be looking for are:

- Your dog's ability to listen and respond to you
- Your dog's behaviour when handled and groomed
- Your dog's greeting behaviour and response to unfamiliar people
- Your dog's response to other dogs
- Your dog's behaviour around food
- Your dog's response to traffic
- Your dog's response to loud sounds
- Vocalisation behaviour
- Your dog's behaviour around the mode of transport that you use regularly.

Your dog will be assessed on a few basic exercises and your dog should have received some basic obedience/puppy training. This training could be:

- Puppy / adult group classes
- One to one training
- Training delivered by yourself

We will assess the following areas during the Eligibility Assessment:

- Sit
- Down
- Stay (15 seconds a short distance from owner)
- Loose lead (we are not looking for heelwork, just that your dog does not pull excessively)
- Recall (with no distraction at a short distance. This **must** be demonstrated with the dog off the lead in a public place)
- Food manners
- Toileting manners (the expectation is that your dog does not toilet within the home environment)



Your dog will not be suitable for the programme if they show signs of:

- Reactivity towards people or other dogs
- Nervousness around people, dogs, novel items, new environments, sights and sounds.
- Guarding behaviour
- Over excited behaviour
- Anxiety

***Please ensure that your dog meets the criteria before applying.***

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